

In the Specification

The paragraph starting on page 5, line 4, is amended as follows:

Fig. 1 is a side view of an Open MRI System 100 in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. The MRI system 100 comprises an MRI magnet assembly 101 comprising a ferromagnetic frame. The frame comprises ferromagnetic elements 102 connected at their ends to ferromagnetic pole supports 104. The pole supports 104 support ferromagnetic poles 106, 108 with opposing pole faces. The ferromagnetic supporting elements may be opposing ferromagnetic plates, as described in U.S. Patent No. 6,201,394 B1, or four ferromagnetic posts, as described in U.S. Patent No. 6,201,394 B1, U.S. Patent No. 6,075,364 and U.S. Patent No. 5,754,085, which are assigned to the assignee of the present invention and are incorporated by reference herein, in their entireties. Shim coils (not shown) for adjusting the magnetic field are also provided, as is known in the art. Gradient field generating coils 110 are provided in a plate 112 adjacent to each of the poles 106, 108. Upper and lower transmitter coil plates 114, 115 are typically provided for supporting upper and lower portions 116a, 116b of a rectangular transmitter coil ~~446~~, respectively. A transmitter coil spacer plate (not shown) is typically provided between each transmitter coil plate 114, 115 and the gradient coil plates 112. Portions of the transmitter coil ~~446~~ 116a, 116b within each plate 114, 115, respectively lie in a plane parallel to the pole faces. The transmitter coil plate 114 and the gradient coil plate 112 are typically made of a flame retardant, insulative material, such as polyvinylchloride ("PVC"). Other types of transmitter coils may be used, as well.

The paragraph starting on page 5, line 22, is amended as follows:

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view of the upper pole 106 and accompanying accessories (gradient field generating coils 110, plate 112, transmitting coil ~~446~~ 116a and plate

114). Canopies 118a, 118b of PVC, for example, are typically provided over the poles 106, 108 (and accessories), respectively. The canopy is typically about 1/8 inch to about 1/4 inch thick. Also shown in cross-section in Fig. 2 are the windings of an electromagnetic coil 130 around the pole 106. The coil 130 generates a magnetic field through the pole 106 when driven by an alternating current. A coil is provided around the lower pole 108, as well.

The paragraph starting on page 6, line 14, is amended as follows:

Preferably, two recessed portions 122, 124 are provided on opposite sides of the bottom of the canopy 118, as shown in ~~Figs. 1 and Fig. 2~~. The recessed portions 122, 124 provide additional room for a doctor or other such personnel in the room to lean into the imaging volume 120 during a medical procedure, as shown in Fig. 1. The recessed portions 122, 124 may be symmetrically arranged around the periphery of the canopy 118, as shown in the bottom view of Fig. 4, or asymmetrically arranged. One recessed portion or more than two recessed portions may be provided.